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of pressure. The author accordingly proposes, as the best hours of observation in a limited system,

6 A. M., 10, 2 P. M., 6, 10.

The case is different where the course of the diurnal curve has been already obtained from a more extended system of observations. In this case the mean of the day may be inferred from observations taken at *any hours* whatever ; and the hours of observation should therefore be chosen, chiefly, if not exclusively, with reference to the diurnal range of the observed elements.

The author proceeds, in the next place, to consider the course to be pursued in the reduction of a more extended system of observations (such as that prescribed by the Royal Society in 1839, and adopted by all the Magnetical Observatories), when some of the observations are deficient. He shows that, in this case, in deducing the daily means from the remaining observations, we must attend, not only to the elimination of the regular diurnal variation, but also to that of the irregular changes of longer periods, which are sometimes (as in the case of the atmospheric pressure) more influential in the result. With this view he determines the values of the *mean daily fluctuation* for each of the elements already referred to ; and compares the mean values of the horary changes thence arising with that resulting from the regular diurnal variation.

The author shows, finally, in what manner the *monthly means* of the results obtained at any hour are to be corrected in the case of deficient observations, so as to render them comparable with those in which none are wanting ; and he deduces the probable values of these corrections for each element, with the view of ascertaining in what cases the correction may be disregarded, and in what it is indispensable.

Professor Graves exhibited and described a silver brooch, belonging to the Royal Dublin Society, and bearing on it an inscription in the Ogham character.

Vallancey gives the following account of its discovery :

"This brooch was discovered by a peasant, turning up the ground on the hill of Ballyspillan, on the farm of Charles Byrne, Esq., the estate of Lord Ashbrook, in the barony of Galmoy, in the county of Kilkenny, in the month of September, 1806."—*Collectanea*, vol. vii. p. 149.

The front of the brooch is ornamented by a device of entwined serpents, such as is met with frequently on objects of the same kind. The back presents four lines of writing in the Ogham character, which read thus :

Minoðor muðo
Cnaempeoch Ceallach
Maeolmaipeo
Maeoluadairg Maeolmaipeo.

Mr. William Halliday, using the ordinary key, deciphered these words pretty correctly ; but in translating them he had gone astray, in consequence of his not perceiving that, with the exception of the second, they are all proper names.

Professor Graves, hoping by means of the names to determine the date of the inscription, requested Mr. Eugene Curry to search for them amongst the pedigrees of the families which have inhabited the district where the brooch was found. The search was not fruitless ; the name Cnaempeoch, a name of rare occurrence, was found in a genealogy in the Book of Lecan (folio 108 b. col. 2), as belonging to a person in that country, the fourteenth in descent from Tucumpanama, who, as we learn from the Annals of the Four Masters, was killed A. D. 676. Allowing thirty years to a generation, this would bring the time of Cnaempeoch down to about the year 1100. The names Ceallach and Maeolmaipeo are too common to be of any use in ascertaining the date of the brooch, or the identity of the other persons named on it.

J. Huband Smith, Esq., exhibited to the Academy a facsimile made from a rubbing of an ancient inscription in the